(c) the state-wise details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to take any specific steps to strengthen this cell set up by CBI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (e) CBI has not set up any Cell for investigation of kidnapping of minor children. However, CBI has constituted a Special Cell known as 'Criminal Intelligence Cell' with Head Quarters at New Delhi *vide* Office Order No. 21/22/99-PD dated 13.9.99 in compliance with orders dated 11.5.99 & 30.8.99 of High Court of Delhi for setting up a Computerised Data Bank on an All India basis regarding Professional Gangs involved in kidnapping of minors for begging, kidnapping of girls and women for prostitution and kidnappings committed for ransom. The object behind formation of this cell is to create an all India data base in respect of Professional Gangs involved in the kidnapping of minors for begging, kidnapping of girls and women for prostitution and kidnappings committed for ransom. However, this Cell does not conduct investigation, but collects, collates and disseminates information to investigating agencies of States/UTs.

No case has been registered in the Cell because the Cell has been constituted only for the purpose of collecting the requisite data on an all India basis and to disseminate this data amongst State/Union Territories.

Meeting of Punjab MLAs with the PM and Deputy Prime Minister

2269. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of 32 MLA from Punjab had recently met the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister also to lodge their protest over plans of the NDA Government to send a team to the State of Punjab over the deteriorating law and order situation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what are the circumstances which led the Government of India to depute its team to Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) A delegation of Punjab MLAs had called on Deputy Prime Minister. There was no mention by Deputy Prime Minister that a team from Government was to visit Punjab. However Deputy Prime Minister remarked that a team of MPs from the NDA, if they so desire, was free and within their right to visit any State including Punjab. Earlier, Prime Minister's Office received a request for a delegation of MLAs led by Chief Minister, Punjab to meet PM but PM could not meet them due to prior commitments.

(c) Does not arise.

Nexus between Al-Quaeda and diamond merchants

†2270. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a nexus between Al-Quaeda and the diamond merchants of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any inquiry in this matter so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, by when it is proposed to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) There are no specific reports with the Government in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Demand for separating Hardwar from Uttaranchal

†2271. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many organisations and political parties have demanded for separating Hardwar from Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.